

From: Robert O'Callahan
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:56am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I believe the proposed settlement is inadequate and will not be sufficient to redress the antitrust offences of which Microsoft has been convicted, nor will it deter them from committing future offences. The Department of Justice has had very little success in enforcing its previous consent decree with Microsoft; we have no evidence that this decree will fare better. It's particularly outrageous that the penalty for violating this new decree will be to extend the decree for another two years! A toothless decree extended for two years is still toothless.

Furthermore, the terms of the proposed decree, even if adhered to, simply require Microsoft to act more reasonably in the future. They do nothing to punish it for past misbehavior, and thus there is little deterrent effect. Microsoft must be subjected to significant material penalties to deprive it of the fruits of its illegal actions, or it will (correctly) view those actions as profitable, and repeat them.

My background: I am a computer science researcher. I just graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a PhD in computer science. My thesis won honours in the 2001 ACM Doctoral Dissertation Awards. I have recently joined IBM's Research Division, but of course I speak only for myself.

Sincerely,
Robert O'Callahan